Roman Stock Characters

  
The **adulescens** was the hero, who is young, rich, love-struck and none too brave. He tends to bemoan his fate and requires backup. Another character often has to take action on his behalf. His father is often the senex or old man, whom he fears, but does not respect. He wears a dark wig and his clothes are usually crimson.

The **senex** has several incarnations. As the father he is either too strict or too soft; either one he does out of love for his son. As the lover he embarrasses his son, his slave, and his wife. He tends to be passionately in love with the same woman as his son, who is much too young for the senex. He never gets the girl and is often dragged off by his irate wife. Sometimes he is a friend of the family who helps the adulescens. He is often a miser, who wears a straight undergarment with long doubled sleeves. It is white and he sometimes carries a staff.

The **miles gloriosus**, literally braggart soldier, is a character that is especially familiar today. He loves himself more than anything else and sees himself as handsome and brave, while in reality he is very stupid, cowardly, and gullible. He may be interested in the same girl as the adulescens. He wears a tunic with long sleeves and has curly hair.

**Your Name ­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Class Period 6-\_\_**

The **servi** (slaves) take up about half of the cast and often have the most monologues. They are not the toilers typical of a real Roman home. The servus callidus or clever slave is always talkative, but his other traits vary. Most of the time he is loyal, more so to the adulescens than the senex. He brings tricks and comedy and tends to drive the plot. He is often the one who finds the truth out at the end of the play. He could be identified by his tendency to use alliteration and meter in his speech. The servi wear tunics and hold or carry scarves.

The **meretrix** (prostitute) is either a mercenary or devoted. The first type is older or more experienced and has seen a lot. The second type is truly in love with the adulescens. Both are very attractive with a complex hairdo and outfit, which is yellow. She also has a mantel.

The **virgo** (young maiden) is the love interest of the adulescens, but does not get much stage time. She is beautiful and virtuous with little personality. She is treated as a prize.

Your task is to match the Roman Stock Character with the characters in THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE. They may not fit with exactly the right desxcription but Gilbert & Sullivan knew what they were doing.

Place the number next to each character.

Roman Stock Characters: Characters in PIRATES OF PENZANCE

1. Virgo a. Pirate King ­­­­\_\_\_

2. Adulescens b. Major General Stanley \_\_

3. Miles Gloriosus c. Ruth ­­­­\_\_\_

4. Senex d. Policemen ­\_\_\_

5. Servi e. Frederick \_\_\_

6. Meretrix f. Mabel ­\_\_\_